



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 18, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY MEETING**

**January 12, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kneffel called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present:	Kneffel (Auburn Hills, MI), Klemanski (Auburn Hills, MI), Dolly (Auburn Hills, MI), Price (Auburn Hills, MI), Moniz (Auburn Hills, MI), Hawkins (Auburn Hills, MI), Waltenspiel (Auburn Hills, MI), Goodhall (Arrived at 4:17 PM)(Auburn Hills, MI)
Absent:	Thornton
Also Present:	Brandon Skopek, Assistant to the City Manager
Guests:	None

**LOCATION:** Virtual Meeting

**PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. TIFA Informational Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2020**

Moved by Dr. Klemanski to approve the TIFA Informational Meeting minutes from December 8, 2020 as presented.  
Seconded by Mr. Hawkins

Yes: Kneffel, Klemanski, Dolly, Price, Moniz, Hawkins, Waltenspiel  
No: none

Motion carried by roll call vote

**B. TIFA Regular Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2020**

Moved by Mr. Moniz to approve the TIFA Informational Meeting minutes from December 8, 2020 as presented.  
Seconded by Mr. Waltenspiel

Yes: Kneffel, Klemanski, Dolly, Price, Moniz, Hawkins, Waltenspiel  
No: none

Motion carried by roll call vote

**CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. FY 2020 Adopted Budget and YTD Summary – December 31, 2020**

Mr. Skopek presented the financial report for the period ending December 31, 2020. He noted a change to the format of the financial report and requested the Board's feedback.

The consensus of the Board was to proceed with the new financial report format.

**Moved by Ms. Price to receive and file the financial report for period ending December 31, 2020.**

**Seconded by Dr. Dolly**

**Yes: Kneffel, Klemanski, Dolly, Price, Moniz, Hawkins, Waltenspiel**

**No: none**

**Motion carried by roll call vote**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Downtown Public Art Initiative**

Mr. Skopek summarized a memo dated January 5, 2021. He noted that the TIFA Board has budgeted for the installation of public art in the downtown in years past, but annual funding has not been included in the budget and a long-term plan for art installation has not been created. To ensure that a robust downtown public art initiative is created and maintained, an annual financial commitment and long-term plan would be required. Should the Board approve a budget amendment in fiscal year 2021 to establish a public art initiative, staff would begin work on forming an arts committee. The committee would conduct a call to artists, review art submittals, and make a recommendation to the TIFA Board for funding approval. Staff is seeking approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$30,000 for the public art initiative.

Secretary Goodhall arrived at 4:17 p.m.

Chairman Kneffel asked what metrics would be used to determine the success of the program.

Mr. Skopek stated the success of the program would be determined by the amount of interest received from a call to artists and the subsequent installation of art pieces. He noted that it had been difficult in years past to receive submittals from artists. The creation of a long-term plan and an arts committee should assist with generating interest.

Dr. Dolly asked if the committee would establish guidelines and if there would be a theme for the art each year.

Mr. Skopek stated that the arts committee would establish the criteria and guidelines for the program. Guidelines are yet to be determined, but there has been discussion about perhaps ensuring art pieces represent a part of downtown's history.

Dr. Dolly suggested reaching out to the art departments of Oakland University and Oakland Community College.

Chairman Kneffel suggested reaching out to Avondale Schools about their arts program.

Chairman Kneffel suggested a not-to-exceed budget for the art and asked who would be overseeing the expenses.

Mr. Skopek stated that he would oversee the expenses on behalf of the Board as the Executive Director. He added that the arts committee would make a recommendation to the TIFA Board for funding approval.

Chairman Kneffel asked why \$30,000 was used as the budget for this initiative.

Mr. Skopek stated that this was the amount budgeted in years past and that the public art piece installed at the Knight Amphitheater cost \$25,000, so \$30,000 would be appropriate.

**Moved by Mr. Moniz to amend the 2021 Tax Increment Finance Authority budget as presented for the downtown public art initiative.**

**Seconded by Mr. Hawkins**

**Yes: Kneffel, Klemanski, Dolly, Price, Moniz, Hawkins, Waltenspiel, Goodhall**

**No: none**

**Motion carried by roll call vote**

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Mr. Skopek gave an update on the alleyway construction downtown. He explained that the overhead light receptacles and underground electrical were incorrectly installed. OHM Advisors and the Department of Public Works are working with the contracted electrician on a solution to the issues.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Moniz congratulated Mr. Skopek on his promotion to Assistant to the City Manager. The Board congratulated Mr. Skopek.

Mr. Moniz updated the Board that the Public Square design was shared with the City Council. He noted one City Council member suggested the addition of seating and overhead string lights for the Public Square. Mr. Moniz agreed and suggested the Board take those suggestions into consideration.

Chairman Kneffel asked if overhead string lights were part of the overall design for the Public Square.

Mr. Skopek stated that he has spoken with OHM Advisors on creating a bid alternate for the addition of overhead string lights once the project goes out to bid. He added that seating may be explored at a later date depending on the demand.

Chairman Kneffel stated there have been news reports on the road reconstruction taking place in southeast Michigan and the desire to create diverging diamond interchanges. He suggested sharing Auburn Hills' progressiveness having constructed one years ago.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled TIFA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 4:00 PM at Auburn Hills City Hall Administrative Conference Room, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Mr. Waltenspiel to adjourn the TIFA Board meeting.**

**Seconded by Mr. Moniz**

**Motion carried**

**The TIFA Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Goodhall  
Secretary of the Board

Brandon Skopek  
Assistant to the City Manager